

Commandos attack Israeli convoy

TEL AVIV (R) — Commandos ambushed an Israeli convoy near Tyre in southern Lebanon Sunday, wounding one soldier, the army said. The commandos opened fire with light arms, a spokesman said. Israeli troops returned the fire and launched a search for the attackers. A recent upsurge in attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon has forced the army to take stringent security measures and vehicles crossing the border travel only in convoys accompanied by armed troops.

Arafat to visit Malaysia after PNC meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will visit Malaysia soon after the Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting on Feb. 14, PLO representative Ahmad Al-Faraj told reporters Sunday. Mr. Ahmad said he would discuss the visit with Arafat when he attends the PNC session in Algiers. No date has been fixed.

Kuwait to buy 12 Mirage fighters

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is to buy 12 advanced versions of the French-manufactured Mirage F1-C fighter aircraft, the Kuwait News Agency reported. The air force already has 18 F1-C planes in service.

Turkey to buy oil from Iran

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will buy five billion tonnes of oil from Iran this year, Energy and Technology Minister Fahri Ilkel said Sunday before leaving for an official visit to Iran. The minister said during his visit he would sign the \$1.1 billion oil agreement and also expected to sign another agreement to bring natural gas by pipeline from Iraq and the Soviet Union have also shown interest in supplying Turkey with natural gas, which it does not use at present.

Canada, Japan to strengthen ties

TOKYO (R) — Prime Ministers Pierre Trudeau of Canada and Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan agreed Sunday to strengthen relations between their countries, government sources said. They said the agreement came during a two-hour dinner meeting hosted by Mr. Nakasone shortly after the Canadian prime minister arrived from Manila on a four-day visit, the first leg of a 17-day Asian tour. The sources reported that Mr. Trudeau, first Western leader to meet Mr. Nakasone since his election last November, had expressed the hope that Canada could play a greater role in the Pacific. Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Nakasone are due to hold talks Monday which are expected to focus on the world economy, East-West tension, bilateral relations and South East Asia.

Afghan general defects to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A major-general from Afghanistan's army medical corps has defected to neighbouring Pakistan, state-run Radio Pakistan reported Sunday. The radio identified the general as Nair Mohammad Azizi and said he was a doctor but gave no further details. Two Afghan army brigadiers and two senior secret police officials defected to Pakistan in December, declaring sympathy with the Muslim guerrillas fighting government and Soviet troops in their country.

West German Greens agree on mixed programme

SINDELFINGEN, W. Germany (R) — The radical ecologist Green Party, on the threshold of election to the West German parliament, Sunday agreed on a mixed programme of nuclear disarmament, job-creation and ecological reform. After a gruelling nine-hour debate, 650 party delegates at a special pre-election congress in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, thrashed out a 40-page programme proposing sharp tax rises for higher income earners, radical cuts in defence spending and a ban on nuclear energy. The programme, entitled "working with a purpose, living in solidarity," said more than a million new jobs would be created through "ecological investment" such as the setting up of conservation projects.

Lebanon expects slow pace in withdrawal talks

BEIRUT (R) — Despite progress on an agenda, Lebanon expects slow going when substantive talks start Monday on withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and future relations between the two countries.

Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. delegations needed six rounds of negotiations, held alternately in Lebanon and Israel, before reaching agreement on an agenda last Thursday.

Monday's session, at the coastal resort of Khaldé just south of Beirut, will be the first entirely devoted to the content of the agenda.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, who returned to the Middle East last week, met Lebanese leaders in Beirut Saturday and then went to Israel. His message to both countries, according to press reports here, was that President Reagan wanted to see the talks move ahead rapidly.

The Lebanese government, through state-run Beirut Radio, has cautioned against excessive optimism, and sources close to the talks said they anticipated hard bargaining over many of the points at issue.

To avoid disputes over which subject should have priority, the agenda agreement provided for several topics to be discussed concurrently by sub-committees.

The topics are: Termination of the state of war, security arrangements, a framework for mutual relations, a programme of complete withdrawals, and possible guarantees.

Lebanon has appointed overall delegation chief Antoine Fattal to head its team on ending the state of war with Israel. The team on mutual relations will be headed by

another diplomat, Ibrahim Kharram, and the one on troop withdrawals by Brig. Abbas Hamdan.

Sources close to the talks said they believed that ending the state of war should be the simplest question to resolve, but that other topics could raise complex technical problems.

Lebanon has managed to keep out of the agenda the phrase "normalisation of relations" which Israel had wanted, Israel succeeded in including a reference to the movement of goods, products and people between the two countries.

Until a general Arab-Israeli settlement is reached, Lebanon does not want to give the impression that it accepts Israel as a normal member of the Middle East community.

Frem favours peace treaty BEIRUT (R) — The commander of the right-wing Christian militias known as "the Lebanese Forces" said in an interview published Sunday he favoured a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel.

Middle East analysts said the statement by Fadi Frem to the English-language weekly Monday Morning was the clearest call by the Christian rightists for full peace between the two countries.

But Mr. Frem was quoted as saying: "I am in favour of a peace treaty." He said Lebanon, which has borders only with Syria and Israel, needed such a treaty to create "equilibrium" between its neighbours.

IRA kill Irish judge in Northern Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Two Irish nationalist gunmen stepped out of a crowd of churchgoers Sunday and shot dead one of Northern Ireland's few Catholic judges.

Judge William Doyle, 56, was killed on the steps of St. Bridget's Catholic Church in south Belfast as worshippers emerged after mass. A 72-year-old woman was seriously injured.

A priest rushed from the church and, kneeling in a pool of blood beside the dying judge, administered the last rites.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which opposes British rule in Northern Ireland and draws its guerrillas from the province's Roman Catholic minority, claimed responsibility in a telephone call to a local radio station.

The judge was shot because he played "a key part in the British government's repressive occupation regime," the IRA said.

An eyewitness said: "The judge was walking down the steps of the church to his car. There were hundreds of people around. A man stepped out from the crowd in front of him and started shooting, at point blank range into his chest and stomach."

Police said they were convinced two gunmen were involved. The killers escaped by car.

Judge Doyle was the third Northern Ireland judge to be killed by republican guerrillas in the province's long-running political and sectarian strife.

U.S. approves steps taken by Nakasone

WASHINGTON (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone meets President Reagan this week after taking political and economic steps that have won the approval of U.S. officials.

Mr. Nakasone, who took office in November, has steered his government through tariff cuts and measures to open the Japanese market to U.S. exports, increased defence spending and announced a policy that would give Japanese military technology to the United States.

"We have been observing with very great interest the energetic manner in which Nakasone has approached his job in his first six weeks in office," a senior administration official told reporters.

He said Mr. Nakasone's recent visit to South Korea, which Japan has long had chequered relations, had contributed to the goal of stability in the region.

"What all this adds up to is that Nakasone has gotten off to a good start," the official said.

Mr. Nakasone arrives Monday for a three-day visit and meets President Reagan on Tuesday.

In spite of the favourable reception in Washington to Mr.

Nakasone's actions, the prime minister will be involved in tough, frank discussions, the official said.

The United States is dissatisfied with Japanese defence spending plans which Washington believes are not adequate for Japan's defence role in the Pacific.

U.S. trade representative William Brock has welcomed the Japanese efforts to ease trade friction with the United States but has expressed concern that no U.S. telecommunications sales have been made to Japan two years after an agreement on such sales was concluded.

Beef and citrus imports, among the toughest trade issues between the two countries, are not dealt with in Japan's trade liberalisation.

"The recent market opening measures are only a step towards the much more extensive action by Japan that we believe is necessary," the official said.

He said Japanese curbs on car exports to the United States, which American officials believe should be extended for a third year, would not be negotiated in Washington because such action must be taken on Tokyo's own initiative.



Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko delivers a speech to the press upon arrival in Bonn (AP wirephoto)

Gromyko starts visit to W. Germany

BONN (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived Sunday for talks with West German leaders here. He will clarify recent Kremlin proposals on nuclear missile cuts.

Mr. Gromyko's visit, the first to the West by a Soviet leader since President Leonid Brezhnev died in November, seems certain to be dominated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) plans to start deploying 372 U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Europe in December.

Soviet sources said Mr. Gromyko would brief West German officials on Kremlin chief Yuri Andropov's offer to reduce Moscow's medium-range missiles in Europe if the NATO plans are scrapped.

All 108 of the Pershing-2 missiles, which can reach Soviet territory in 10 minutes, would be sited in West Germany.

With two months to go before the West German elections, in

which nuclear arms will be a major issue, there is wide interest in Mr. Gromyko's two-day visit.

Defence Minister Manfred Woerner told the newspaper Welt Am Sonntag in an interview published Sunday that Bonn would listen carefully to Moscow's proposals.

"Mr. Andropov's proposals...leave many questions open and we must wait to see if Mr. Gromyko carries them any further," Mr. Woerner said.

Khaddam delivers message to Fahd

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Sunday received Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It gave no details of the talks. Mr. Khaddam had arrived in Riyadh earlier Sunday at the start of a five-nation Gulf tour.

This follows visits by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz to Iraq and Syria last week in an attempt to improve relations between the two countries.

These reached a low ebb last year when Syria, which supports Iran in the 28-month-old Gulf war, closed its borders with Iraq and stopped the flow of Iraqi crude oil through pipelines across Syrian territory.

Mr. Khaddam was the latest Arab leader to visit the Gulf in a flurry of Arab consultations on issues including the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East problem.

King Hussein also arrived in Riyadh Sunday from Baghdad and Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi was due in Kuwait after visiting Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Qatar from Iraq Saturday night, left Sunday for Damascus after briefing Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani on his recent visit to Moscow and other Arab issues.

Algerian Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Kader Ibn Oassi flew to Bahrain Sunday with a message from Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim to his counterpart, Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Arafat heads PLO meeting in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee opened a meeting here Sunday night, headed by chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinian News Agency Wafa said it was to prepare for a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), a parliament-in-exile, scheduled to start in Algiers on Feb. 14.

Mr. Arafat arrived here Sunday from Qatar to head the committee meeting.

They said the meeting would review Mr. Arafat's talks in Moscow last week with the new Soviet leadership and in Jordan as well as developments in the Middle East as a whole.

The PLO has an estimated 6,000 commandos in Lebanon and will be affected by Lebanese-Israeli talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country which get under way in earnest Monday following an agenda agreement last Thursday.

Despite friction between Mr. Arafat and Syria, this is his sixth visit to Damascus since he and thousands of PLO commandos withdrew from Beirut last August.

Earlier in Doha, Mr. Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher should remember the rights of Palestinians when demanding self-determination for Falkland Islanders.

Mr. Arafat told the official Qatar News Agency that Britain was morally responsible for the Palestinian tragedy.

Mr. Arafat criticised Britain for refusing recently to receive an Arab League mission which included a PLO delegate, adding: "Nobody has any right to decide anything on behalf of the Palestinians."

Jordanian-Palestinian relations are strong and are continuously being bolstered and cemented, Mr. Arafat added.

He told the Qatari newspaper Al Arab that his recent talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow were successful and covered all aspects of the Palestine problem and the Middle East issue.

In the interview, Mr. Arafat warned of an imminent Israeli aggression on the Bekaa Valley in Central Lebanon.

Qaboos briefed on withdrawal talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Lebanese parliamentarian Louis Abu Sharaf briefed Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman Sunday on the current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency reported from Muscat. Mr. Abu Sharaf, who arrived in Oman Saturday night, conveyed a verbal message to the Omani leader from President Amin Gemayel the agency added. The parliamentarian is at the head of one of three Lebanese missions set up to explain the Lebanese position to Arab leaders.

Hussein in Riyadh

RIYADH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and his accompanying delegation arrived here Sunday for a visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with King Faid Ibn Abdul Aziz.

The King was met upon arrival at Riyadh airport by the Saudi monarch, royal princes, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers.

King Hussein and his party were accorded an official welcome ceremony during which the King inspected the guard of honour.

King Hussein went to Riyadh from Baghdad where he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Arab developments and current efforts for the establishment of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

At their three-hour meeting the King and the Iraqi President made an analysis of the current Arab and international developments and their impact on the Middle East situation. They also made a general evaluation of the joint Arab action since the convening of the Fez Arab summit in September 1982.

King Hussein briefed President Hussein on his recent talks with President Reagan and his views regarding the future stage and coordination of Arab stands with the purpose of achieving just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

For his part, the Iraqi President outlined the present situation on the war front and heard King Hussein reiterating Jordan's total and absolute backing to the Iraqi stand.

The talks were attended by the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Hussein and members of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council as well as senior government officials, who also saw the King off upon his departure for Saudi Arabia.

Israeli massacre commission retires

JERUSALEM (R) — The inquiry commission investigating Israel's involvement in the Beirut massacre held its last session Sunday and retired to write its report.

The commission was appointed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, under intense public pressure, to investigate Israel's part in the September massacre by Lebanese rightist militias of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in

two Beirut refugee camps. Last November, the commission warned nine Israeli military and civilian leaders, including Mr. Begin and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, that they could be harmed by its findings.

The nine were allowed to present new evidence and cross-examine witnesses. At Sunday's closed session, lawyers for six of them summed up their arguments.

Yugoslav vice president dies

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Vice President of Yugoslavia Vladimir Bakarić died Sunday at the age of 70.

Dr. Bakarić was born in 1912 in Velika Gorica near Zagreb. He completed the Law Faculty in 1935 in Zagreb and two years later earned his doctor of science degree. He joined the revolutionary workers' movement while still a student.

In 1940 he became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Croatia.

During the national liberation war he performed various important military and political functions.

After the war he held high party, governmental and political offices in the Republic and Federation. From April 1945 to 1954 he was prime minister of the People's Republic of Croatia.

Dr. Bakarić was elected deputy to all the post-war sessions of the Federal Assembly. He was a



Dr. Vladimir Bakarić member of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Bakarić has received the Order of People's Hero, the 1941 'Partisan Memorial' Badge and other high Yugoslav and foreign decorations.

7 million Italians to strike against new taxes

ROME (R) — Leaders of Italy's main trade union federation appealed to their members for solidarity Sunday, as signs of dissent arose ahead of a general strike on Tuesday to protest at government austerity measures and stalled wage talks.

The CGIL-CISL-UIL federation expects seven million workers to strike against new taxes, unemployment and what it calls the intransigence of the industrial employers' confederation.

But union confidence was rocked when Agostino Miano, leading official of the Socialist UIL union, was barred by demonstrators and pelted with eggs as he tried to speak in the northern industrial city of Bologna.

Union officials blamed ultra left-wing groups for the incident, but the Socialists felt badly stung and raised the spectre of dissent within the union federation.

Speaking on National Radio Sunday, leader Giorgio Benvenuto called for renegotiation of the union Federation's pact and attacked "minorities within the movement."

The danger of dissent was also underlined by Luciano Lama, leader of the Communist CGIL Union, who condemned the

Bologna incident in a front-page article in the Communist Party daily L'Unita.

Mr. Lama warned that class unity and strength in Italy could not stand dissent between the grass roots and the union structure.

"The bosses...are working to break our unity because they know that this is the most effective way to weaken and beat us," he wrote.

In what political commentators see as a move to avoid a repeat of the Bologna incident, the federation has decided not to let speakers address crowds during Tuesday's strike.

The commentators say the union federation has lost support from workers faced with rising unemployment, but could benefit from a new mood of shop-floor revolt.

Many Italian workers face thinner pay packets from next month because the industrial employers' confederation, Confindustria, has ordered its members to revoke the existing "scala mobile" (escalator) system of indexed wage rises.

Workers will also be hit by government spending cuts and tax increases intended to save 15,000 billion lire (\$11 billion) this year.

European, American prelates to discuss nuclear arms Tuesday

VATICAN CITY (R) — Leading European and American prelates meet here this week to take a hard look at the Roman Catholic Church's ideas on nuclear arms.

As Vatican officials prepared for the informal two-day meeting Pope John Paul Saturday appealed directly to the Soviet Union and the United States to achieve swift and substantial results in their nuclear arms reduction talks in Geneva.

The bishops' meeting, starting on Tuesday, should help to clarify church thinking on the issue but is not pledged to make a definitive statement, Vatican sources said.

U.S. bishops have drafted a pastoral letter which condemns several aspects of President Ronald Reagan's nuclear arms policy, and raises doubts about the morality of

deterrence. Participants at the meeting are still to be confirmed but Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, an outspoken critic of nuclear weapons, was expected to attend, Vatican sources said.

Other major figures expected include Cardinal Basil Hume, primate of England and Wales, and Monsignor John Roach of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

West German Cardinal Joseph Höffner of Cologne was also expected to attend.

Bishop Dante Bernini, president of the church's "Justice and Peace" Commission, and Father Fernando Charrier, director of the Italian bishops' conference office for social problems, were

expected to represent the Italian church.

Church sources in Washington said a representative of the French bishops' conference would attend but no Vatican confirmation was available.

Pope John Paul made his call for progress on arms control talks in an address to the Vatican diplomatic corps Saturday he said: "The concerned parties must make reciprocal efforts to go through the stages of disarmament together, trying to reach the maximum possible reductions without delay."

His speech followed an international meeting on nuclear arms in Vienna involving scientists and clergy of all faiths, organised by Austrian Cardinal Franz Koenig. The Catholic bishops meeting

here will face the tough task of responding to the war fears and moral doubts of some of the faithful, while bearing in mind that a radical stance could alienate conservative, anti-Soviet Catholics.

Five NATO countries, Britain, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium, are due to start deploying new medium-range Pershing II and cruise missiles if the Geneva talks fail to produce agreement on cutting nuclear arsenals.

The prospect of new missiles has prompted the revival of an anti-nuclear movement in Britain. In West Germany, protest groups have been active with environmentalists and pacifists in a campaign against nuclear weapons.

The issue was among those which prompted a split in West Germany's Socialist Party last year, leading to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's resignation and a change of government.

The American bishops' stand on nuclear arms echoed a growing groundswell of concern about war in the United States and public opposition to President Reagan's plans to modify the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal.

If their stand is endorsed at the two-day meeting here, the new U.S. chief negotiator at Geneva, Kenneth Adelman, will face added pressure to produce results. Mr. Adelman, reportedly a hardliner against the Kremlin, replaces Eugene Rostow, sacked by President Reagan last week.

HOME NEWS

Japanese firm to set up 7th power unit in Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese firm, C.Itoh and Company, was Sunday awarded a contract to supply, install and operate the seventh thermal power unit at Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa.

The agreement for the JD 15 million project was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour on behalf of Jordan and the director of C.Itoh and Company.

Under the terms of the agreement, the company will supply, install and operate the unit, capable of producing 66,000

kilowatts of electricity.

The project is expected to be completed by 1985 and when it starts production the overall capacity of the thermal power station will amount to 397,000 kilowatts, which is estimated to cover the needs of the areas supplied by the station until 1986.

By 1986 another two thermal power stations, with a capacity of 130,000 kilowatts each, will be operational in Aqaba.

Hassan marks Arbor Day

SALT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday took part in a tree-planting celebration held at Al Arida area in the Jordan Valley on the occasion of Arbor Day.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin, Balqa Governor Mohammad Al Khatib, Jordan Valley Authority Vice-President Munzer Haddadin and the area's farmers were among those who attended the celebration.

Arbor Day celebrations were held in Karak and Aqaba governorates Sunday. Heads of government departments, officials, school children, farmers and other members of the public took part by planting forest and palm trees in the two areas.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday plants a sapling to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

Damascus meeting discusses atlas on Arab water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-member delegation returned to Amman Sunday after attending a four-day meeting in Damascus to discuss the compilation of an atlas featuring all water resources in the Arab World.

The participants discussed ways of preparing the atlas, which will show the location of surface and underground water resources in Jordan along with similar information about other parts of the Arab World, according to the delegation head Ahmad Kilani.

He said that the proposed atlas will be available for geography students, providing them with information about the distribution of water sources and giving details on arid regions as well.

Work on the Jordanian section of the atlas is expected to be completed early next year, Mr. Kilani said.

Chamber of Industry plans meetings of industrialists

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry announced Sunday that it plans to organise meetings for representatives of various Jordanian industries to look into means of developing their trades.

According to the chamber's director, Ali Dajani, the meetings, to be held between Jan. 25 and Feb. 10, will be for every type of industry in Jordan. Businessmen or tradesmen will be submitting their views on such matters as marketing and production and will discuss with the chamber and colleagues subjects connected with these matters as well as vocational training, financing and measures for boosting production, Mr. Dajani said.

The holding of these meetings, he explained, is in implementation of recommendations taken by a seminar on production, which the chamber held in December under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Sawwaf leaves for Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) Director-General Zafer Al Sawwaf left for Riyadh Sunday to take part in a three-day symposium on priorities in implementing Arab development projects planned to be carried out between 1983 and 1986.

At the meeting opening Tuesday, participants will discuss in particular projects that are to be implemented with the participation of international organisations are participating in until 1986.

Dr. Sawwaf said that he will explain the role the AOSM can play in Arab development.

During his stay in Riyadh, he said, he will hold talks with Saudi officials on cooperation between the AOSM and Saudi Arabia in the field of standardisation.

Taking part in the symposium are representatives of Arab governments and Arab and international organisations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zaben confers with Moroccan envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Morocco's Ambassador to Jordan Abdul Latif Laraki held talks here Sunday with Jordanian Minister of Communications Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben on ways of promoting bilateral cooperation between Jordan and Morocco in postal affairs. They also discussed the prospects of exchanging expertise in postal services.

Censor board bans book

AMMAN (Petra) — The Press and Publications Department's censor board Sunday announced a ban on a book entitled "Thought and Faith in Islam" by Dr. Saber Tu'eimeh. A department statement said that the book is erroneous and distorts the meaning of Koranic verses.

Military governor endorses sentences

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor Sunday endorsed sentences passed by the military court imposing fines on 37 Jordanian merchants for violating Ministry of Supply regulations. The fines ranged between JD 20 and JD 200.

Chess, short-story competition planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Education announced Sunday that it is organising a chess tournament and a short-story competition for students of government schools in the capital. The chess tournament will be held at Samir Rifa'i School in Amman on April 12 and an special committee will select three short stories and announce the winners on May 10, a department statement said.

New boys school built in Turrath

RAMTHA (Petra) — A boys school has been built at a cost of JD 100,000 in the town of Turrath in Irbid Governorate, it was announced here Sunday. The school consists of 24 classrooms, laboratories, and can accommodate up to 600 students from the town and neighbouring regions.

14,238 work permits issued in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A total of 14,238 work permits for non-Jordanians were issued in Aqaba in the past year, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Department of Statistics here Sunday. It also said that three training courses were held in 1982 for Jordanian labourers employed by various companies and organisations in the city.

Jordan sends relief supplies to N. Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two trucks carrying relief supplies for victims of the recent earthquake in North Yemen left Amman Sunday by road for Sanaa. The trucks are loaded with foodstuffs and other supplies including clothes contributed by Jordanian organisations and individuals in response to a call by the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Oura said that the shipment will be handed over to the North Yemeni Red Crescent Society for distribution to the people affected by the earthquake.

Last month a 17-member Jordanian medical team flew to North Yemen to render assistance to the victims. Also a campaign was launched by the JNRCS to collect contributions to the victims.

Ministry issues new regulations for kindergartens

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Sunday issued regulations governing the establishment of kindergartens attached to government-sponsored educational institutions in the country.

The new regulations grant the right to public community colleges and public schools to establish kindergartens for children of pre-school age and the right to teachers to train there in the use of new educational methods, especially those specialising in kindergarten or nursery-level education.

The new regulations also stipulate that the kindergartens are to be financed by contributions from parents and other sources.

187 rural councils set up last year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment established 112 village councils, 40 municipal councils and 35 joint services councils in the past year, according to the minister, Hassan Al Momani. Mr. Momani said Saturday that his ministry has "deep interest" in creating joint services councils and in promoting the public services of various municipal and village councils.

The ministry, in a bid to help these councils carry out their various projects, has facilitated their acquisition of financial resources, he said.

In the past year, he said, the ministry approved requests by these councils to obtain a total of JD 15 million in loans from the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

Refugee camp in Zarqa to have improved public services

ZARQA (Petra) — The Palestinian refugee camp in Zarqa will be supplied with electric power, health and water services on the same level as those offered to various other Zarqa districts, according to Zarqa District Governor Salem Al Qudat.

He was speaking after a meeting held at the camp Sunday to discuss ways of improving public services in the camp's residents.

The Technical and Administrative Department in Zarqa will take a comprehensive study for improving public services to villages around Zarqa, Mr. Qudat said.

Work to begin early 1984 on Hamzeh Medical Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Construction work of the Prince Hamzeh Medical Centre is due to start early next year after all designs have been prepared for the project, a Health Ministry spokesman said here Sunday.

The spokesman said that the JD 23.5 million project is expected to be completed in three years and will include a 550-bed hospital and a special section to treat cases like drug addiction.

The centre, the first of its kind in Jordan, will also include a blood bank, a section for forensic medicine, another for treatment by radioactive processes as well as a helipad, the spokesman said.

The Ministry of Health, he added, Sunday received designs for the project's second stage.

5-member gang of robbers caught

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman police Sunday announced the arrest of a five-member gang of robbers aged between 18 and 23, who committed several break-ins and robberies in Amman and Zarqa regions.

A police statement said that the gang had stolen a car, five video sets worth JD 4,000 and robbed stores for valuable goods which they sold at cheap prices. The gang members have been referred to judicial authorities for trial, the statement said.

Rising road accidents call for strict law enforcement

Abdul Rahman Abbushi
Al Rai

AMMAN — Road accidents and increasing number of casualties resulting from them, is becoming a subject of wide-scale discussion and is being considered by highest legislative authorities in Jordan.

As the issue is being widely debated, a new traffic law is being discussed in its draft form. Al Rai sees it appropriate to explore the dimensions of the problem, including a search for actual causes of accidents and casualties, present exploration of the law, also aims at clarifying the points of law dealing with punishments against licensed and unlicensed drivers responsible for causing accidents and new regulations proposed in the draft law, to see how currently they deal with current circumstances.

Statistical source for the analysis is the Public Security Department. Comparing accidents caused by vehicles driven by licensed and non-licensed drivers in June, July and August 1982 with those in the same months of 1981 we arrived at the following figures.

	1981		1982	
Month	Licensed	Non-licensed	Licensed	Non-licensed
May	1636	146	1735	151
June	1676	178	1880	165
July	2028	176	2134	187
August	2064	187	2090	207
Total	7404	687	7839	710

A close look at the above-mentioned data indicates that the non-licensed drivers bear responsibility for nine to ten per cent of the total number of accidents. This fact makes us wonder whether the severity of punishment for non-licensed drivers has been sufficiently effective to curb accidents. We also wonder if the law were scrupulously applied in all such cases.

Moreover, it is still to be asked whether the kind of punishment in the proposed traffic law will be effective enough to reduce the size of road accidents in the country. The present law considers non-licensed driving a Group A offence, which calls for the offenders under such group to face an imprisonment sentence up to three months.

A follow up of non-licensed offenders trials indicates that the regular punishment has been a one-week imprisonment. The new law also considers this offence Group A with the amendment that punishment for such an offence should not be less than one-week imprisonment and not more than three months, or fining the offender a sum which may range between JD 30 and JD 100.

The punishment for this offence, according to the prop-

osed law, has been given a floating character that makes it less effective, relying on the indecisiveness of the legislator regarding the imprisonment sentence. It is fair to say that any member of a self-respecting society should not allow to let his or her vehicle into the hands of a non-licensed driver, so that no one gets the opportunity to drive a car before getting sufficiently trained for it.

We refer to a widely-known case of a driver still mourned on newspapers' pages, who lost his life after a tragic accident caused by a 15-year-old boy driving a car at a speed of 100 miles per hour. The accident did not take place at any other spot than a traffic light.

The disastrous outcome of this incident urge us to appeal to four sections of the community for reducing the danger it exposes against people's lives. We to fathers and mothers to have compassion on their children's lives by not allowing it to happen that they sit behind a steering wheel before they are ready and licensed for it.

We secondly appeal to the legislative authorities to tighten the hand of law on non-licensed drivers. The third party we appeal to is the traffic police, which we hope will not treat such an offence leniently, and turn those who commit it to the court for trial.

We finally request judges who consider such offences to sentence those who commit them to the maximum penalty instead of a minimum one.

A real problem is facing our developing community, and it is everyone's responsibility to see to it that every effort is exerted to root it out.



Statistics indicate a steady increase in the number of road accidents caused by vehicles driven by non-licensed drivers

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Breakfast-time television makes debut in Britain, gauds on rivals

By Leslie Dowd
Reuter

LONDON — Breakfast-time television, long established in the United States, arrives in Britain next week and promises a lively ratings battle between rival networks.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Monday will be the first in Europe to launch a morning programme of news and comment, and its commercial television rival will follow with its own show on Feb. 1.

Britons are among the world's keenest viewers, with family life heavily influenced by "the box."

and indications are that initial audience could be as high as five million, only about a tenth of Britain's 46 million viewers but encouraging if it could be maintained.

At 6:30 on Monday, as Britons clamber out of bed to face another working week, the face of amiable veteran presenter Frank Bough will launch the BBC's show, called Breakfast Time.

The rival show starting on Feb. 1 will begin half an hour earlier at 6 o'clock. Leading the host roster of local big names is international television celebrity David Frost, possibly even better known in the United States than he is in his native Britain.

A ratings battle is guaranteed as TV-AM, the specially formed company, fights for profits on the franchise it won to operate breakfast television, as it has come to be called in Britain, on a commercial basis.

TV-AM has a budget of £16.5 million (\$26 million) a year or £14,000 (\$22,000) an hour and is aiming for an audience of three million.

"We're confident we'll get it," said a spokesman at the futuristic high-technology studios TV-AM has built in London's trendy but rundown Camden town district.

"We all see breakfast television as a gamble, an experiment and a

challenge," David Frost, a major TV-AM shareholder, said two years ago when it won the franchise.

"It is the only frontier left in British television."

The BBC breakfast Time show will budget only £3,000 (\$4,740) an hour, barely a quarter of TV-AM's, but has the backing of the BBC's huge world news network.

BBC television does not carry commercials and is financed out of the £46 (\$73) licence fee charged to all households with colour television receivers.

BBC managing director Aubrey Singer insisted the BBC show was

not on trial but "...will run as long as the BBC exists."

Breakfast television got off to a slow start in the United States in the 1950s but has long been a major showcase for politicians, businessmen and others eager to reach the public.

Despite expressions of confidence, the industry knows it could face an uphill battle to win acceptance for breakfast television but is confident of success.

The Japanese have had it for two years and received it "phenomenally well," according to a TV-AM spokesman who noted about 37 per cent of viewers watch it there. In Australia it is also doing well.

Italian television starts transmissions at 8 a.m. but is not regarded by British television executives as being true breakfast television as it is based on quizzes, Opera and similar non-news items.

TV-AM has a serious immediate problem, however. It will open without any revenue at all unless a dispute between actors and advertising agencies over fees for work in commercials shown on breakfast television is settled soon.

TV-AM is not directly involved in the complicated dispute but it will not be able to carry revenue-earning commercials until it is solved.

Both the BBC and independent television have opted for a relaxed approach characterised by BBC Breakfast Time editor Ron Neil as "informative but informal."

The BBC plans to mix news and guest comment with reports from resident experts on such topics as cooking, gardening, keep-fit and even astrology. A clock will grace a corner of the screen for time checks.

"I'll be getting up at three o'clock in the morning — or trying to," confided Selma Scott, who will join Frank Bough in hosting the show at an annual salary of £40,000 (\$63,000), according to published reports.

TV-AM has an even more impressive line-up of personalities who are household names in Britain. Apart from Mr. Frost it has the country's leading chat show host Michael Parkinson and news presenters Anna Ford and Angela Rippon.

TV-AM plans to open with an hour of news to be followed at seven o'clock with a show called "Good Morning Britain." It will aim for a relaxed atmosphere with guests dropping in to chat rather than staging set-piece interviews.

TV-AM's chairman is Peter Jay, son-in-law of former Prime Minister James Callaghan and British ambassador in Washington until 1979.

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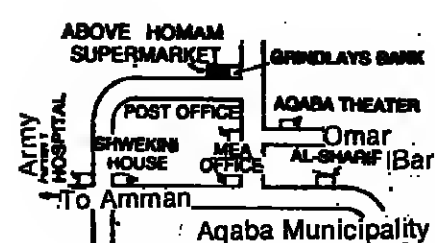
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Time for reflection

WHILE we prepare to enter a new era in which much of the Middle East future will be decided, there are a few weeks left for reflection and contemplation.

The peace process that is being engineered today is different from earlier attempts at reaching a solution to the age-old Arab-Israeli conflict, in many respects. Major players have changed, consequently outlooks; the reality on the ground has apparently become uncertain and unfamiliar, though not yet too rough for manoeuvre and movement; the rush for higher stakes in the Middle East race for time and history has reached a new pitch; the times are different and the going is tough.

Things are also different in that we now have a sort of deadline to meet. By March, the peace process will have taken one turn only: to peace, or to political upheavals and therefore to a new wave of uncertainty in this part of the world and elsewhere. Until then, there is a lot to think about and contemplate.

Jordan and Jordanians are for peace, so are the Palestinians. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, being the sole and legitimate

representative of the Palestinian people, is faced with the dilemma of having to play its full role from behind the scene. The rest of the Arab World are watching, hardly caring to be objective about and involved in the difficult choice Jordanians and Palestinians stand today, to make, soon.

Peace is never a difficult choice. The question is the price you have to pay for it. Where we Jordanians and Palestinians stand today, there seems to be no sure answer, and hence the need for political courage and sense of history to make the right decision.

As we await the outcome of the Palestine National Council meeting next month on whether to join the peace process, we call on the Palestinian leadership to spare no effort in rising to its historic responsibility and adopt clear-cut, practical solutions that will put an end to Israel's arrogance and expansionist policies once and for all. This we do with full confidence that the just Palestinian cause will be strengthened and better understood with each step forward Palestinians and Jordanians decide to take.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iraq -- a strategic depth of Arab Nation

The recent visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Iraq is an expression of Jordan's national commitment, and the King's talks with President Saddam Hussein are in full compliance with the common Arab effort for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Iraq has committedly participated in all battles aimed at preserving the Arab Nation's interests, and is now defending Arab land and men against assaults on their existence and well-being. The present stand by Iraq testifies to its high sense of national responsibility, and complete recognition of the imminent dangers threatening the Palestinian territories and cause, which need to be freed from Israeli annexationist plans in time before it is too late for such a noble task.

Under the present extraordinary circumstances, Iraq has a full right to be notified of the latest developments regarding Arab efforts for peace in the region, and those directly involved in the process find it their duty to openly acquaint the Iraqi brethren with details of such developments. The King's talks with President Hussein are in this context, and so does the recent visit to Baghdad by Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat.

The Iraqi role in promoting joint Arab peace efforts is an important one. Iraq has historically been involved in the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist aggression on the Arab Nation, and its participation in the peace efforts, being a strategic depth of Arab struggle, will add a new weight to the Arab position in the peace process.

In the light of all such basic facts, the King's recent talks in Baghdad can be expected to strengthen the common Arab stand, and crystallise a strong Arab potential.

Al Dustour: Iraqi potentials vital to Arab Nation

His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to Baghdad was no surprise. The King had lately pointed out that the visit is a necessity in the light of his great concern for ending the Iranian aggression against Iraq, and putting an end to the Iraqi preoccupation with defending its territory as a result of Iran's persistence in continuing its assault.

Iraq has invariably been an active participant in defending Arab territories, and facing threats to Palestinian soil and rights. Had the Iranian leadership responded positively to Islamic and international mediation efforts to bring the war to an end, Iraq would have been able to take part effectively in the defence of Lebanon, when the outrageous Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place.

The King's visit to Iraq, and his talks with President Saddam Hussein come after the Arab League

seven-member committee's visits to Paris, Moscow and Peking and the King's talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington, during which the King conveyed the Arab League's peace proposals unanimously agreed upon at Fez to senior officials in these capitals. The visit also follows new developments for ending the Gulf war, among which a proposed Algerian mediation effort is one.

The liberation of Iraqi potentials, now absorbed by the continuing Iranian aggression, will certainly improve the general Arab position, which is now suffering a tragic setback. A lot of Arab issues need to be countered effectively, and timely answers to challenges are necessary. What is done now will definitely affect the interests of future Arab generations either positively or to the worse.

West German FDP is fighting for survival

This train stops here

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

COLOGNE. West Germany — As the blue and yellow campaign train carrying West German foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher pulled into Cologne station, a jazz band struck up "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In."

But a platform sign gave what was perhaps a more apt commentary on the election prospects of Mr. Genscher's ailing Free Democratic Party (FDP): "Do not climb aboard, this train terminates here."

The small liberal party, badly battered by its change of coalition partners in Bonn last year, was first off the starting blocks when campaigning for the March 6 general election began this week.

"We have the most ground to catch up," said FDP General Secretary Irmgard Adam-Schwartz. "This is undoubtedly the most difficult campaign in our history."

Opinion polls show that if the election were held now, the FDP liberals would be cast out of parliament with little more than three per cent of the vote.

That grim prospect was echoed in Mr. Genscher's furrowed brow as he tried out his standard campaign speech for the first time over pea-soup and beer in a Cologne beer hall.

The foreign minister knows that this time he and the Free Democrats are fighting for political survival.

The most remarkable thing about Mr. Genscher's speech was what he did not say. There was not a word about his switch from a coalition with former Social Democratic (SPD) Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to a government pact with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) last autumn.

Accused by the Social Democrats of treachery, the shift deeply split the liberals. Four deputies and more than 10,000 members quit the FDP and it crashed to a series of humiliating defeats in regional elections.

Mr. Genscher is haunted by the treachery charge. As he entered the beer hall, he was flanked by a group of drinkers at the bar shouting "traitor."

Inside the welcome was warmer. About 300 mainly elderly people listened in polite silence to his call for the families of West Germany's immigrant "guest workers" to be treated fairly, but they erupted into stormy applause when he defended the new government's decision to make students repay their grants once they begin to earn a living.

Mr. Genscher reminded his audience, as he spoke about East-West disarmament talks and

the European Community, that he was the West's longest serving foreign minister.

But he struck the most receptive chord when he recalled the political instability of the post-World War I Weimar Republic that helped Hitler to power 50 years ago this month.

"This must never happen again," he said, in what sounded like a subliminal appeal to save the FDP as West Germany's political

stabiliser. The same theme was taken up later by other party leaders.

As the "action train" headed off on the next stage of a whistle-stop tour of 27 cities in eight days, liberal politicians in the dining car compared experiences of their first grey morning's campaigning.

Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff had visited a training centre for craftsmen where the local guild president had personally ripped down a sign saying "no cuts in the social system" hoisted by one of the apprentices.

Other campaigners refuse to be daunted by the widespread indifference apparently aroused by their activities.

Next stop Koblenz. Former Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, the only prominent opponent of the coalition switch still in the FDP leadership, had his third thankless task of the day.

After viewing environmental damage in Aachen and visiting a centre for drug addicts in Cologne, he had a date with Koblenz officials to discuss sewage recycling. Every vote counts.

Meanwhile former Federal President Walter Scheel, who is honorary president of the FDP, was telling two dozen liberal women over sweet moist wine why West Germany needed the FDP as a stabilising third party.

"In England, the Labour Party takes power and nationalises everything. Then the Conservatives get back in and reprivatise everything, and so it goes on."

"We liberals have prevented these major swings in Germany by allowing a new majority to be formed without politics being turned upside down," he said.

The radical ecologist Greens, who have replaced the FDP as third party in several regional

assemblies, were neither willing nor able to perform this function, he said.

Other prominent liberals scattered to meetings with groups identified by opinion researchers as the FDP's most promising electorate — small businessmen, accountants, lawyers, doctors and dentists — in short the self-employed and "upwardly mobile," as they are known in sociological jargon.

A random survey suggested the same groups made up most of the 250-strong audience which listened to Count Lambsdorff at a plush hotel in Wiesbaden, the train's last stop of the day.

"What are you doing for the middle classes?" one minor manufacturer asked the minister. His reply listed tax breaks, lower interest rates and measures to reduce bureaucracy.

Although the audience seemed already friendly to the FDP, there were peals of laughter and cries of "wait and see" when Count Lambsdorff said he was absolutely confident the party would gain re-election to parliament in March.

Meanwhile, in another Wiesbaden hotel, Mr. Genscher was speaking to local journalists. One asked how he saw his own future if the FDP failed in the March poll.

"The question does not arise," he replied.



Hans-Dietrich Genscher with the FDP's general-secretary Irmgard Adam-Schwartz

DE FACTONOMICS

Why maximise smokers' welfare?

By T.A. Jaber

The National Consultative Council (NCC) last week debated the proposed government measure to allow importation of foreign cigarettes subject to customs tariffs. The Economic Committee of the NCC argued against this proposal on a number of grounds to which I shall refer in this commentary.

Let me first state certain facts about the cigarette industry in Jordan before I present my personal opinion. There is only one firm now producing cigarettes in the East Bank of Jordan. It has useful linkages with other national economic activities, for example, the purchase of local tobacco is done at a given price fixed by a board in which the government is represented. According to 1982 estimates, more than 2,000 farmers in Jordan make their living out of this cash crop. Local tobacco has to be blended with imported inputs to ensure a given taste.

The company employs 600 workers with possible increases when increased exports are guaranteed. Its total production amounts to JD 28 million of which the government collects about JD 18 million in production fees.

The company's production has for years been enough to meet local consumption with a surplus for export to the Arab Gulf countries. Such exports last year gave about JD 6 million in foreign exchange.

May I state, at this point, that this issue has caught my attention not only for the narrow specifics of a given industry or a company, I do claim neutrality as a non-smoker and base my opinion on the experience of other developing countries in the area of trade protectionism.

Thus, I agree with the conclusion of the Economic Committee that the proposed government measure will have a net negative impact on the cigarette industry in Jordan and on the national economy in general. Its expected positive effects, if any, are questionable on the following arguments:

1. A conflict of interest usually arises in most developing countries regarding import policy between commission agents or importers on the one hand and industrialists on the other. The interest of the first group is to maximise imports from abroad particularly in their line or brand. Through

this, they pocket sizeable profits as commission and more income as wholesalers.

The industrialists risk their capital and energy to establish new projects in a developing country hoping for protection from more mature and refined foreign companies. They look for the government to protect their products through banning similar imports or imposing high tariffs.

The best way out of this conflict of interest is to encourage traders and importers to gradually move their activities towards industrialisation. In Jordan, we already have examples of such transformation.

Since Jordan's domestic market is small, and the cost of local inputs including labour, land and energy is relatively high, our overall policy should favour protectionism if our industrialisation process is to survive and expand.

2. Our trade deficit is increasing and has reached alarming magnitudes. Our imports are estimated in 1982 at JD 1,200 million while our exports are about a quarter of that. Thus, our trade policy should aim at rationalising imports to serve our economic

development objectives which include enhancing our local production for import-substitution and exports.

3. The world economy suffers now from a severe recession which has been prolonged by the inability of large economies to apply proper policies within a healthy framework of international co-operation. Industries in the rich countries are pressuring their governments for more protectionism on the one hand, and trying hard to compete in other markets on the other. We should be aware of these developments and formulate relevant policies in favour of our industries and against dumping and cut-throat competition.

4. The conventional argument against protecting local industries is two-fold: (a) that protection creates monopolies which can dictate their prices, and (b) there is no inducement to improve the quality of their products. The argument goes on to say that in both instances the welfare of the consumer will be neglected.

Does this theoretical argument apply to the case of the cigarette industry in Jordan? It does not — because, first,

while the Jordanian Company is a monopoly, its prices are directly fixed by the government. Second, being capable of competing with other cigarette manufacturers in the Gulf markets gives a positive indication of the quality of the Company's products. Third, and most important, is the acknowledged fact that smoking is harmful to health. Accordingly, why should we think that we maximise the welfare of smokers by providing them with a wider choice?

5. Imposing a tariff on imported cigarettes does not prevent smuggling. Rather it opens the distribution channels for it. The incentive for smuggling will be stronger the higher the tariff rate, while if the rate is low, then the cigarette industry will gradually suffer.

A proper trade policy, an industrialisation drive, welfare considerations and prevention of smuggling all call for protection of our own cigarette industry. In the meantime, if more varieties are desired by smokers, and they won government sympathy, new producers should be permitted to operate in Jordan. The answer should not be found in importation.

Corsica: Fight for independence

By Donald Forbes

AJACCIO, Corsica — People on the Mediterranean island of Corsica have grown accustomed to bombs in the dead of night, with the crash of rubble, the swirl of dust and the dazed terror of victims brutally roused from sleep. The attacks are made by a group of fanatical Corsican guerrillas, waging a bombing campaign which is intended to win the island's freedom from France.

The targets are mainly the homes and businesses of French settlers who have refused to pay revolutionary taxes levied by the guerrillas, and have ignored warnings by telephone and letter to get out of Corsica. For the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), France is a colonialist power and its citizens are depriving Corsicans of their heritage.

The front, which represents Corsican nationalism in its most virulent form, has a short history but roots which go deep into a tradition of resistance to the 200-year-old link with France. Founded in 1976 and finally outlawed last week, the guerrillas are about to undergo their severest test.

Exasperated by 700 FLNC bomb attacks in Corsica last year, the government has ordered one of France's toughest policemen, commissioner Robert Broussard, to tame the guerrillas. It is unclear how the FLNC, which police say numbers 200 active guerrillas, views the prospect of a confrontation with Mr. Broussard. The front has ducked out of sight in recent days amid signs of an internal power struggle.

According to informed sources, the struggle is between hardliners who want the violence to go on and to spread to the mainland, and moderates who want to switch to political action. The FLNC began

its wave of violence with fixed aims to which it has closely adhered. These include the installation of people's power in an independent Corsica which would expropriate "big colonial properties and tourist trusts". Its first spectacular onslaught was the occupation of Ajaccio airport in 1976 and the blowing-up of a Boeing 707 plane.

A regular pattern of daily bombings was established, together with a warning by the front that it would take lives if necessary.

Reform promises

In 1977, guerrillas armed with machine guns seized military posts near Bastia, tied its sentries to a tree and temporarily put out of action the security forces' communications in all of northern Corsica. Another attack the same year wrecked a broadcasting relay station and deprived the northern part of the island of television for three months.

Authorities said they had discovered contacts between the FLNC and other guerrilla groups including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which reportedly provided training facilities, the Irish Republican Army and the Spanish Basque separatist organisation ETA.

As the result of a crackdown by the government of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, more than 50 members of the front were rounded up and jailed. The FLNC responded with a number of attacks in Paris, as a vicious circle of repression and retaliation was established. To break the mould, the new Socialist administration of President Francois Mitterrand set out in 1981 to conciliate nationalist opinion in Corsica with promises of reform and an amnesty for those in jail. The FLNC in turn observed a

truce.

The ceasefire ended last February with the realisation by the front that what Corsica secured from Paris would always fall short of the independence it desired. Former FLNC leader Yves Stella said: "In the end it doesn't matter whether the left or the right is in power. The colonial relationship between Corsica and France remains the same."

The resumed violence reached its peak at the end of the year with the attempted murder of a French settler, although the FLNC has not admitted responsibility. French settlers, terrified by the bombing of homes, the threats against families and the degree of extortion, began to leave in increasing numbers. The sense of anarchy in Corsica was intensified by criminals using the FLNC's name and methods to extort money and settle scores of their own.

Police sources do not minimise the difficulty Mr. Broussard and his newly-strengthened police force will face in tackling the FLNC. The guerrillas have always profited from the patriotic complexity of other Corsicans though there is now widespread public weariness with their campaign.

Infiltration of the guerrilla ranks is almost impossible. Police sent from the mainland do not speak the Corsican dialect, while Corsican policemen are all known to the guerrillas and are quickly recognised. Police sources say the FLNC is well organised, operating in small, independent cells so the importance of individual arrests is minimised.

Nationalist feeling is especially strong among young people, who suffer the worst of Corsica's high unemployment. Authorities fear they will continue to provide easy recruits for the front if it chooses to fight on.

Vietnam still holds Kampuchean cards

By John Rogers

Reuter

LONDON — Four years after Vietnam installed the Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh, the international outcry has subsided to a sigh of frustration at the Kampuchean stalemate.

Most of the world wants Vietnamese troops to withdraw, but Vietnam refuses — and cannot be evicted without the risk of another Indochina war which no one wants.

On principle, most nations recognise the ousted Khmer Rouge regime and its allies in a fragile anti-Vietnamese coalition, led by former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as Kampuchea's legitimate government.

But it has slim hopes of taking power in Phnom Penh.

Kampuchea is a political and military battleground for Vietnam and its old enemy China, and the region is a potential flashpoint for conflict that could suck in the big powers.

But the immediate prospect is for containable fighting on the Thai-Kampuchean frontier between Vietnamese-backed government forces and the coalition's guerrillas, along with haggling over the framework for an elusive political settlement.

After decades of war, which ended with the 1975 defeat of U.S.-backed governments in South Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, Indochina ranks low on the priorities list in Moscow and Washington, behind the Middle East, Afghanistan and East-West relations in Europe. Western analysts say.

With about 180,000 troops in Kampuchea and 40,000 in Laos, Vietnam dominates the region in fulfilment of an old ambition.

The Soviet-backed Communist government in Hanoi says the Kampuchean situation is irreversible and it will not withdraw while there is a threat from China.

Peking is arming 30,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, fighting alongside smaller forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk and the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) led by ex-Premier Son Sann.

But the three allies, whose fighters are based along the Thai-Kampuchean border, admit they have little hope of seizing power in Phnom Penh by force.

"We have always sought a political solution, because we are not strong enough militarily to drive out the Vietnamese forces," Son Sann said in a recent magazine interview.

The shape of a possible settlement, and how it might be achieved, has not yet emerged.

One potential spur to change is the Kremlin's avowed desire to normalise relations with China, which views Soviet support for Vietnam's military presence in Kampuchea as a major obstacle to a rapprochement.

If Moscow's top Asian priority is détente with Peking, continuing to support Vietnam in Kampuchea could hinder wider Soviet interests in Sino-Soviet talks due to resume next month.

But analysts say the Soviet Union is unlikely to want, or easily be able, to impose a compromise on Hanoi — an ally which

has proved independent towards Moscow.

A settlement would stem criticism of Hanoi and Moscow in the Non-Aligned Movement, which is expected to discuss Kampuchea at its summit meeting in New Delhi in March, and improve ties with the five countries in the non-Communist association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the coalition's main supporter.

But prospects of a negotiated solution are slender while Hanoi's critics demand complete Vietnamese withdrawal as a precondition.

After a massive invasion of Kampuchea, Vietnam installed Heng Samrin in power in January 1979, driving out a Khmer Rouge government widely condemned for the brutality of its rule since 1973. China launched a punitive attack on Vietnam and withdrew after a month-long war in spring 1979.

Prince Sihanouk's tripartite coalition was formed last year to consolidate the opposition and dilute the identity of the Khmer Rouge.

But its leaders have met only once. As a potential alternative government, it is unstable and is united only by a desire to evict the Vietnamese and Heng Samrin.

The coalition holds Kampuchea's United Nations seat and has international recognition, restated last October in a U.N. General Assembly call, by 105 votes to 23, for withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea.

But there is no sign that Heng Samrin's international isolation, by itself, will change the situation.

"China existed 20 years without being recognised internationally," notes Robert Taylor of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

"The formation of the coalition surprised the Vietnamese," says a Western diplomat in Bangkok. "But Vietnam still holds the cards in Kampuchea."

Since the Khmer Rouge government was ousted, guerrilla fighting has steadily increased but neither side has gained much ground.

In the fiercest recent clashes, Vietnamese-led forces retook a village near the Thai border seized by guerrillas last month.

Vietnam is building up the strength of Heng Samrin's army, which has about 20,000 regular troops and more than 10,000 men in provincial units, according to Western diplomats in Bangkok.

They say Vietnam is prepared to negotiate on peripheral issues, such as border tension and a possible international conference on Kampuchea, but could only accept a closely allied Kampuchea free of Chinese influence.

In an apparent display of flexibility, Hanoi announced a partial troop withdrawal from Kampuchea last July. But Thai officials and Western diplomats called it a sham in which combat units were merely rotated.

Hanoi concentrates most of its troops on its own northern border with China, where each side has accused the other of mounting attacks since the 1979 war.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, in optimistic mood, said in November there had been an effective ceasefire since August. But three weeks later, Hanoi reported new clashes.

SPORTS

Gaelic fire and Gallic skill come in handy

Ireland, France come out well in Rugby Union Championship

LONDON (R) — Gaelic fire and Gallic skill gave Ireland and France ideal starts in this year's five nations Rugby Union Championship which began at Edinburgh's Murrayfield and London's Twickenham Saturday.

Champions Ireland withstood a late charge from Scotland to run out 15-13 winners in a thrilling encounter while France comprehensively outplayed England 19-15, scoring three tries to none.

The Irish forwards convincingly allayed their supporters' fears that they could be over the hill with a vigorous and aggressive display. Donal Lenihan completely dominated the lineouts and the back row of Fergus Slattery, John O'Driscoll and Willie Duggan was superb.

Ollie Campbell gave another immaculate exhibition of flyhalf play, scoring all but four of Ireland's points, while Hugo MacNeill emphasised his claims to a place in the lions team to tour New Zealand this year with a flawless game at fullback.

Scotland has surprise in store for everybody

But Scotland, badly weakened by the absence through injury of flyhalf John Rutherford and fullback Andy Irvine, almost pulled off what would have been a memorable victory.

Ireland scored all their points in the first half and went into the interval with what looked a fairly safe 11-point lead.

However, in the second half Ireland were not able to add to their tally while Irvine's replacement Peter Dods kicked two penalties and Jim Renwick drop-kicked a goal as the Scots came tantalisingly close to repeating their home win over the Irish two years ago.

Kicking apart, Dods had an unhappy match in the blustery conditions, missing the ball completely twice.

France looked a team of rare calibre when they overcame a lacklustre England side in a bruising clash at Twickenham.

The French took control of the forward battle in both scrums and lineouts and played with more imagination and dash in the backs.

France suffers from regular bouts of clumsiness

But they would not have been France if they had not shown the inexplicable lapses in concentration and application that have dogged their play through the years.

The sequence leading to England flyhalf Les Cusworth's dropped goal was a case in point.

Dusty Hare, who kicked 12 of England's points, attempted a 50-metre kick which was clearly dipping under the bar.

That was not how it appeared to Hare's opposite number, French fullback Serge Blanco, who leaped like a soccer goalkeeper and punched the ball forward.

England gratefully accepted the resulting scrum, leaving Cusworth with the easiest of drop goals.

The French goal kicking was also dismal, with Didier Camberabero succeeding with only one shot in five as well as missing with two dropped goal kicks.

Kicking apart, France were superior in all departments with the remarkable 34-year-old prop Robert Paparemborde completely overshadowing C'nlin Smart as well as picking up his eighth international try.

Australia wins 7-wicket victory over English side

BRISBANE (R) — Australia, so often the pupils of one-day cricket, were the masters here Sunday with a sweeping seven-wicket win over England which maintained their unbeaten record in the World Series Cup.

Australia, who have now won their first three games in the triangular tournament, dismissed England for 182 in 46.4 of their quota of 50 overs and surged to success at 184 for three with nine overs to spare.

The victory kept Australia at the top of the standings with six points. New Zealand have two from three matches and England two from four.

England again crumpled against the fast bowlers who played a key role in Australia's 2-1 win in the recent Ashes series, and the home country sealed success with an unfinished fourth wicket stand of 86 between David Hookes and Allan Border.

Border made 30 not out in 36 deliveries while fellow left hander Hookes scored an unbeaten 54 in 61 minutes and completed victory in spectacular style by lashing fast bowler Bob Willis for 22 in one over.

Hookes hit the England captain's first two deliveries for four, did not score from the third but struck the next for six over mid-wicket and hammered the last two for four.

The Hookes-Border partnership came after all-rounder Ian Botham took all the wickets which fell to make the Australians 98 for three.

Botham had Kepler Wessels caught behind by Ian Gould for 19 after an opening stand of 41 with John Dyson, who went on to make 40 before he and skipper Greg Chappell (30) fell in rapid succession to Botham.

But Hookes, named man of the match, and Border ended any lingering hopes England held of snatching a surprise win and powered Australia home in the 41st over.

England, whose first cup win came in Saturday's match here with New Zealand, produced another disappointing batting display in which a gritty 57 by top scorer Derek Randall was the only notable feature.

Randall and Botham (29) shared a fifth wicket stand of 57 after the first four wickets fell for 71, but once they were parted the lower order swiftly subsided.

David Gower, who hit superb centuries in the previous two games, made only 22 this time.

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Wicketkeeper David Murray joins West Indian rebels in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The rebel West Indian cricketers, heartened by an exciting victory over Western province in their first tour match in South Africa Saturday, will include wicketkeeper David Murray in their side for Monday's one-day match against Border.

Murray, who arrived here late Saturday night from Australia, steps straight into action because Emmerson Trotman injured a finger while keeping wicket against Western province, tour Captain Lawrence Rowe told reporters Sunday.

But Rowe said he could not confirm whether Barbadians Malcolm Marshall, Desmond Haynes and Hartley Alleyne would still join the team.

"I think Hartley will get here but I am not so sure about Desmond Haynes and Malcolm Marshall anymore. We are working on getting some replacements, but I can't tell you anything definite yet," he said.

"We are going to get more injuries—we know that. It's important that we have good players to step in when that happens."

Rowe said the team to face Border in the Indian Ocean city of East London would be selected from: Richard Austin, Alvin Greenidge, David Murray, Lawrence Rowe, Everton Mauit, Collis King, Franklyn Stephenson, Sylvester Clarke, Bernard Julien, Derek Parry, Ezra Moseley, and Colin Croft.

All players banned for life

All players taking part in the tour have been banned from the game for life by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC).

Monday's one-day limited overs match against Border is expected to be one of the easiest of the tour for the visitors. Border are a minor provincial side featuring none of the big names of South African cricket.

The touring side have not yet announced their team to face Border.

Navratilova beats Austin handsomely in Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova added Tracy Austin to her long list of recent victims Sunday night with an impressive 6-2, 6-2 victory in the semifinals of the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis Tournament.

Navratilova, ranked number one in the world, needed only 65 minutes to defeat the third-seeded Austin.

Seventh-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany will oppose Navratilova in the final for the second time in seven days after cruising past her fellow-countrywoman Eva Pfaff 7-5, 6-1.

Navratilova's victory was her 94th in 102 matches and she has won 16 of her last 19 tournaments. She defeated Hanika 6-1, 6-1 in a 44-minute rout in Washington last week.

Austin, who lost her serve twice in each set, reached break point just once in the entire match and failed to win a single point on Navratilova's serve in the first set.

The 21-year-old Pfaff was in her first major tournament semifinal and to get this far she had won three three-set matches. The fatigue took its toll against Hanika, two years her senior.

Hanika, ranked 11th, broke three times in the second set, winning the last six games. She admitted that Navratilova would be a much stiffer challenge.



Martina Navratilova

"I must do something different," she said of the final. "I was missing everything that night (in Washington). I had a bad evening, but this is another day."

Pakistani skipper's pace bowling destroys India

HYDERABAD, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani skipper Imran Khan ripped India's batting apart with a blistering spell of pace bowling on the third day of the fourth cricket test Sunday to send the touring team tumbling to 189 all out in their first innings.

Imran swept aside the cream of the Indian batting with six for 35 off 17.2 overs and he was ably supported by his long-time pace bowling partner Sarfraz Nawaz who captured three for 56.

Mohinder Amarnath with 61 and newcomer Balwinder Singh with a heroic 71 were the only Indian batsmen to counter Imran's speed and lift on a perfect batting strip.

Earlier Pakistan declared their first innings at a mammoth 581 for

three with Javed Miandad carrying his overnight score from 238 to 280 not out. Only former Captain Hanif Mohammad with 337 has scored more runs in an innings for Pakistan.

Zaheer Abbas, who was 25 not out at the declaration, set yet another record when he became the first Pakistani batsman to score more than 4,000 runs in test cricket.

When India batted Sarfraz Krishna Srikanth lbw for two. Captain Sunil Gavaskar and Amarnath took the score to 44 before wicketkeeper Wasim Bari caught Gavaskar off Imran for 17.

Pakistan lead India 2-0 in the six-test series.

but it seems certain that all-rounder Bernard Julien, who did not play Saturday, will be in the team with the likelihood of tour manager Albert Padmore and the team's liaison officer Gregory Armstrong also playing.

Former West Indies Captain Alvin Kallicharran is currently playing a provincial league match for Transvaal and will join the touring team after that finishes.

The Border line-up is: Richard Kent, Gary Gower, Rodney Ontong, Ivor Foulkes, Errol Lachlan, Greg Hayes, Gavin Fraser, Ray Ranger (captain), Mike Ballantyne, Dirkie Scott, Graham Pruhl.

Meanwhile, the South African selectors have appointed Peter Kirsten as captain for the series of two four-day matches and six one-day games.

Kirsten, skipper of Western province, captained the South African side during the recent tour here by a rebel Sri Lankan team.

The South African side to play in the first four-day game beginning in Cape Town on Friday was also announced.

S.Africa appoints Peter Kirsten as captain

The team is: Jimmy Cook, Barry Richards, Peter Kirsten, Graeme Pollock, Clive Rice, Kevin McKenzie, Alan Kourie, Garth Le Roux, Ray Jennings, Vincent van der Bijl, Stephen Jefferies.

The side shows two changes from the one which easily defeated the Sri Lankan XI. Opener Richards replaces Lawrence Seeff, who is 12th man, and McKenzie takes the place of all-rounder Adrian Kuiper.

Richards has missed several matches this season because of injury and his fitness is still suspect, while Seeff has had an unhappy time with the bat recently and was dismissed for no score in the one-day match against the West Indian XI Saturday.

10 solo yachtsmen head towards sailors' graveyard in unpromising weather

SYDNEY (R) — Ten solo yachtsmen set off in strong winds Sunday towards the sailors' graveyard, Cape Horn, at the start of the third stage of a round-the-world race.

They are survivors of the longest and toughest endurance race which began on Aug. 28 at Newport, Rhode Island, in the United States, and will finish there in May after they have circled the globe via Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

Huge seas, broken masts, steering problems and a crash on to rocks have reduced the field of 17 starters to 11 by the 21,000-kilometre half-way mark.

Czech defector still 50 kilometres away

The last man, Czechoslovak defector Richard Kookinski, was still 50 kilometres from Sydney on the second leg as the other 10 boats were leaving for Rio.

Frenchman Philippe Jeantot, in Credit Agricole, leads on handicap from South African Bertie Reed, in Altech Voorrekkers, and another Frenchman, Jacques de Roux, in Skolem 111.

The yachtsmen have been arriving in Sydney harbour over the past three weeks telling frightening tales of near drownings and long periods without sleep.

Cape Horn is the next major peril. They have to round it as close as possible to take advantage of currents on the closing stages of the 8,250-mile leg to Rio which is expected to take the leaders about 50 days.

Japan's Yukoh Tada sat on Sydney quay stitching a spare sail with a sewing machine just before the start of Sunday's leg.

Tada, 52, a Zen Buddhist who drove taxis for 10 years until taking to the sea, has a sloop crammed with the latest Japanese gadgetry including a radar scanner and two cameras, one pointing to the sea and the other to the cabin, to record his voyage.

Youngest competitor speechless from exhaustion

The youngest man left in the race is 24-year-old Briton Richard Broadhead, who arrived in Sydney nearly speechless from fatigue after problems with his self-steering gear.

Communication trouble gave him only three days' radio contact with land during his 50-day journey from Cape Town. Once he clung grimly to the sailcloth to avoid being swept overboard.

The oldest is Francis Stokes, 56, of the United States, in the sloop Moonshine. He rescued compatriot Tony Lush, who cannot swim, from the sinking ketch Lady Pepperell about 2,000 kilometres from Cape Town.

Briton Desmond Hampton dropped out of the race after his Gypsy Moth V hit rocks off New South Wales on Dec. 17.

The yachtsmen have to make radio contact with the organisers twice a day if possible and their positions are charted closely.

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WORLD

Cosmos 1402 re-entry expected Jan. 24

Canada gets ready to collect satellite debris

OTTAWA (R) — Canada has drawn up plans for a full-scale search operation in case a second Soviet nuclear-powered satellite crashes to earth in its frozen northern wastelands.

Canadian officials expect the disabled Cosmos 1402 satellite to re-enter the earth's atmosphere on Jan. 24, five years after a similar Soviet satellite disintegrated over Canada scattering radioactive debris over the country's northwest territories.

A Soviet scientist said Saturday that the Cosmos 1402's fuel core had separated from its main reactor and would enter the earth's atmosphere in mid-February but would burn up before landing and pose no serious danger.

The 1978 clean-up operation, involving 1,200 military personnel and scores of civilians, cost six million Canadian dollars (\$7.4 million) and the Soviet Union agreed to foot only half of the bill.

Three per cent chance

There is only a three per cent chance of the Cosmos 1402 crashing over Canada but officials have drawn up major contingency plans.

Hercules aircraft equipped with

gamma-ray spectrometers will be sent up to pinpoint radiation remnants as soon as Cosmos crashes.

A defence ministry spokesman, giving details of Canada's preparations, said: "It is a tremendous undertaking. Civilian air traffic will have to be controlled during re-entry and there will also be intensive military flying in the area once it has landed."

"Last time we had to build a runway, camp and set up a small community of about 100 people in the middle of nowhere."

Canada was put on standby after monitoring reports from the North American aerospace headquarters in Colorado indicated that the nuclear-powered satellite had broken into three.

Boost attempt fails

Ottawa was advised after Soviet manoeuvres to boost Cosmos 1402 into a higher orbit failed. "If that had worked, it could have stayed up there for 500 to 1,000 years," the defence ministry spokesman said.

He said Jan. 24 was the likely date of re-entry and added: "It will only be six hours beforehand that we can get to predicting

where it will come down."

Special nuclear accident teams stationed at all Canadian military bases will be on alert and U.S. nuclear emergency teams, their computers, clothing and equipment contained in planes, will also be called in if necessary.

Defence officials in Washington say the satellite is extremely unlikely to crash to earth with its nuclear reactor intact and the odds are 70 per cent that it will land at sea.

An Energy Department response and cleanup team is on standby for a satellite crash in the U.S. although the Soviet Union has said there is no hazard connected with the descent.

"Life-threatening"

A U.S. Defence Department official, asked if people would die if the core landed intact and they were too close to it, replied: "Absolutely. The intact fuel would be life-threatening at a few hundred metres."

Luck was on Canada's side in 1978 since the largest chunk of Cosmos 1402 was found on the barren edges of a frozen river hundreds of kilometres from civilisation.

White farmers rearm in Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — White farmers in black-ruled Zimbabwe's troubled Matabeleland are rearming and reactivating their Rhodesian war radio alarm systems for protection against rebels, a newspaper said Sunday.

The Sunday Mail reported the government was licensing and giving back to the province's farmers automatic weapons handed in during a disarmament campaign last year.

The farmers were reconnecting and modernising their "agricultural" radio alarm system, linking farms with each other and with the security forces.

It was last used to counter guerrilla attacks in the Rhodesian civil war preceding independence in 1980.

More than 100 people, including 15 whites, have been killed in a year-long wave of violence blamed by the government on disaffected former guerrillas loyal to the Matabeleland-based opposition party of Joshua Nkomo.

The Mail said the decision to rearm the farmers was taken when the commercial farmers' union met government security and military chiefs earlier this month.

Mrs. Thatcher reportedly freed of all blame

LONDON (R) — An official inquiry has judged Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher virtually blameless in her government's failure to anticipate Argentina's seizure of the Falkland Islands, British Sunday newspapers reported.

A report of the inquiry, carried out by a committee under Lord Franks, a former British ambassador to Washington, is due to be published next Tuesday. The Sunday newspapers reported extensively on its contents, quoting sources who had seen it.

"The crucial political message of the Franks report is the virtual exoneration given to the prime minister and her colleagues," the Observer said.

It said that while the report was believed to make "modest criticism" of former Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who resigned because of the affair, politicians would emerge from the inquiry virtually unscathed.

The Observer added: "The report makes it clear, however, that though the intelligence machinery did not work as well as it should there was probably no way that an Argentine invasion could have been averted."

The Sunday Times said: "Mrs. Thatcher will be directly blamed for little, if anything, in the report."

Mitterrand signals end to chilly ties with Benin

COTONOU (R) — President Francois Mitterrand told the three million people of Benin Saturday that France had not forgotten them.

His speech symbolised the end of a frosty era in relations between France and one of its few former colonies now under a Marxist government.

Mr. Mitterrand became the first French president to visit Benin when he arrived Saturday on the second leg of his three-nation tour of West Africa.

The presidential plane arrived late after a fierce sandstorm delayed its departure from Togo.

Mr. Mitterrand received a warm welcome from the people of Cotonou, and heard President Mathieu Kerekou, who setzled power 11 years ago, describe him as an authentic spokesman for the Third World.

Col. Kerekou drew a distinction between the current Socialist government in Paris and "the painful epoch of colonialism."

Mr. Mitterrand denounced what he called the injustice by which the Third World was excluded from the world economic system. "France has not forgotten you," he said.

He praised Col. Kerekou's efforts to develop Benin, which is devoid of virtually all raw materials.

His tone and message were a far cry from the chill in relations which set in after Col. Kerekou made Marxism-Leninism Benin's official ideology, and which deepened after France was accused of involvement in a 1977 mercenary-led coup attempt.

The two presidents made their speeches in a new Chinese-built sports stadium, where thousands of children in the red and green national colours gave a gymnastic display in his honour.

Mr. Mitterrand will take part in ceremonies marking the anniversary of the plot Sunday.

By Anthony Barker

Reuter

LONDON — The British animal rights campaign, traditional scourge of the fox hunting fraternity, the fur coat industry and some sections of the scientific community, has apparently taken a more violent turn.

A hitherto unknown group, calling itself the Animal Rights Militia, sent an incendiary package in December to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her official London residence, 10 Downing Street.

The package, which contained a letter from the group, ignited, slightly injuring an official. Four similar packages sent to leading British politicians were defused.

The incident, vigorously condemned by all British campaigners against cruelty to animals, highlights a growing militancy among activists who have decided to replace rhetoric and invective with direct action.

Opponents of blood sports have

noisy condemned members of the royal family, including the young Princess of Wales, wife of the heir to the British throne, for hunting deer and foxes.

In September, animal rights campaigners noisily disrupted the Miss United Kingdom contest to protest against the promotion of furs by the fashion industry.

But some groups favour even more direct action, in their campaigns for legal protection for animals.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association regularly braves the anger of hunt supporters by sprinkling snuff and chemicals to confuse foxhounds and by blowing horns to mislead pink-coated huntsmen.

The Northern Animal Liberation League storms laboratories in large groups and publishes photographs of animal experiments.

Members of a group called the Sea Shepherd paint seal pups to make their pelts worthless to hunters who club them.

The most radical group is the

"Strategic arms deal was reached in '82"

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators reached informal agreement on limiting each side's medium-range missiles in Europe last July, but the accord was rejected by both Washington and Moscow, the New York Times reported Sunday.

Quoting senior U.S. officials, the Times said the private agreement by Paul Nitze and Yuri Kvitinsky in Geneva led to a White House rebuke for Eugene Rostow, dismissed last week as director of the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency.

The newspaper quoted an unidentified senior State Department official as saying the agreement was "very faulty" and would not have been approved.

It said Mr. Rostow was admonished by national security adviser William Clark, in a memorandum to Secretary of State George Shultz, for exceeding his authority in both the Geneva compromise and a private

meeting he held in Vienna with the head of the Soviet delegation to the East-West talks on reduction of conventional forces.

In their informal accord, the newspaper said, Mr. Nitze and Mr. Kvitinsky agreed that the number of Soviet medium-range missiles would be sharply reduced. Officials would not provide exact details, the Times said.

The Times said the Geneva and Vienna episodes were cited by Mr. Rostow's supporters and his critics as part of the reason for his dismissal last Wednesday on orders of President Reagan.

It said Mr. Rostow, on a trip to Europe, conferred with Mr. Nitze and they agreed that Mr. Reagan's approach of refraining from deploying U.S. missiles in Europe if the Soviet Union dismantled all its European-based intermediate missiles was not working. Both agreed Mr. Nitze should explore alternatives.

The officials were quoted as saying that under the Nitze plan the Soviet Union would maintain between 50 and 100 missiles in Europe. Some U.S. weapons would be deployed, but not as many as the 572 Pershings and Cruise missiles planned.

Both the U.S. and Soviet negotiators agreed their outline could provide the basis for a more formal agreement, but that each was working without the authority of his government.

There was no immediate official comment in Washington on the New York Times report.

When Mr. Nitze and Mr. Kvitinsky returned to Geneva in late September, the Times said, the Soviet negotiator told his U.S. counterpart privately that the joint agreement they had worked out had been rejected by his government and that he had been reprimanded for going as far as he did.

Democrat Cranston wins initial round

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — Sen. Alan Cranston of California Saturday night won the first test of strength for the 1984 U.S. presidential election, collecting 59.2 per cent of the votes in a popularity poll at his state's Democratic Party convention.

Sen. Cranston, 68, the assistant Democratic leader in the U.S. Senate, had said that he had to win the poll if his campaign was to gain national prominence. He declared himself delighted with the result.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale, the leading Democratic contender in most national polls, was second with 23.4 per cent of the vote.

Although the presidential election is still 22 months away, seven Democratic presidential hopefuls

addressed the convention before the poll.

The vote was taken at the urging of Sen. Cranston's campaign staff against the wishes of many party leaders at the first of the state Democratic conventions.

Sen. Cranston was chosen by 783 delegates as their first choice for presidential candidate and Mr. Mondale by 309. The other five contenders, including Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, a former astronaut, collected only 230 votes between them.

The California vote was important because the state will send the highest single voting block — 345 delegates — to the Democratic presidential nominating convention next year.

But Sen. Glenn and the other

contenders — Senators Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, Gary Hart of Colorado, and Earnest Hollings of South Carolina and Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona — had earlier dismissed the poll as little more than a show of strength for a home state candidate.

The poll was not binding and delegates could later change their allegiance, they noted.

Sen. Cranston earlier also won a poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times over the past 11 days among 1,416 delegates attending the convention. He got 40 per cent of the vote followed by Mr. Mondale with 15 per cent.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, who has announced that he will not be a presidential candidate in 1984, came third with seven per cent.

Surinam's air force chief flees

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (R) — Surinam's air force chief fled the country and a dozen army officers have been relieved of their duties as part of an armed forces shake-up, the official Surinam News Agency (SNA) reported.

In a dispatch to the Barbados-based Caribbean News Agency (CANA), SNA confirmed foreign reports that Commander John Vasildia left this week, but gave no reason for his departure.

The reports had said Commander Vasildia had arrived in neighbouring French Guiana early this week and had left on Wednesday for an unknown destination, possibly the Netherlands.

SNA said the 12 officers were removed from their posts on Tuesday as the first stage of an armed forces shake-up and "to strengthen the unity and stability of the army."

The military rulers of the former Dutch colony crushed a suspected coup plot last month, killing 15 prominent citizens they said were trying to escape from custody.

The Netherlands responded by cutting off aid to the small South American country, accusing the leftist government of Lt.-Col. Daisi Bouterse of executing the men.

CANA said the military leaders had been grappling with internal dissent in the armed forces since the coup plot.

Meanwhile, Sunday was the deadline set by the government for two United States diplomats to leave Surinam because of alleged involvement in counter-revolutionary activities.

SNA said the deputy chief of the United States mission in the Surinam capital of Paramaribo, Dick la Roche, and public affairs officer Ed Donovan were asked to leave on Jan. 6 because "several times they had openly criticised

the revolutionary process."

The agency, which gave no indication of whether the two men left Sunday, alleged that one of them had encouraged a leading foreign ministry official to undermine his minister's policies.

SNA was also quoted as saying there was a general feeling in Surinam that a new civilian government would be announced on Feb. 25, the third anniversary of the coup which brought the army to power.

Surinam's last administration, which was headed by civilian economist Henri Neijhorst and was the third since the coup, resigned last month following the breakup of the suspected plot.

SNA denied allegations that the military had planned to close the country's border to check a big outflow of mainly middle- and upper-class citizens since last month's incidents.

power in what was called Rhodesia.

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During his visit Mr. Zhao signed a loan agreement for \$33 million to add to \$19 million already loaned free of interest.

Chinese sources praised Mr. Mugabe's policy of reconciliation with the nation's white minority, which still plays a major role in the country's economy.

In Tanzania, Mr. Zhao reaffirmed China's commitment to its most ambitious foreign aid project, the Tazara railway built with Chinese finance and labour between the Tanzanian port of Dar Es Salaam and Zambia's copperbelt.

Zhao stays off controversy during African tour

NAIROBI (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang leaves Africa Monday after a month-long tour seen by many as signalling Peking's intention of asserting a stronger role as a Third World leader.

Mr. Zhao's visit comes 19 years after that of another Chinese prime minister, Chou En-Lai, whose rhetoric was then widely regarded as a call for continental-wide revolution.

Echoes of Mr. Chou's visit still lingered when Mr. Zhao arrived. But his visit was very different to that of his predecessor and one of his first messages to African leaders was that he had come to discuss how "to develop economic and technological relations under new circumstances."

Though missing no chances of criticising "super-power

hegemony" — especially if the Soviet Union was the target — Mr. Zhao generally steered well clear of controversy during his tour.

The wide range of nations visited indicated China wished to make as many friends as possible. No matter what their present policies might be, diplomats said.

Both Morocco and its arch-rival Algeria were included, as were staunchly capitalist Kenya and doctrinaire Socialist Tanzania.

Mr. Zhao discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict with Egyptian leaders and in Rabat and Algiers talked about the crisis in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Western Sahara conflict, and the Namibia issue.

He stressed that these problems should be solved without foreign intervention.

Reliable sources in Algeria said

there were differences in talks there over the role of the Soviet Union, which has close ties with Algerian leadership.

The Chinese premier got a more sympathetic response in neighbouring Morocco, where he was told that Soviet influence exerted through Cuba was responsible for "the deviation of the Non-Aligned Movement from its original objectives."

Another successful stopover was in Zimbabwe, although the visit had a tragic start when five women were killed and more than 60 people injured when a welcoming crowd stampeded at the airport.

China was the main backer of guerrillas led by Mr. Robert Mugabe, now prime minister, during the war against the white-dominated regime formerly in

power in what was called Rhodesia.

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British animal rights campaign begins violent forms of protest

By Anthony Barker

Reuter

LONDON — The British animal rights campaign, traditional scourge of the fox hunting fraternity, the fur coat industry and some sections of the scientific community, has apparently taken a more violent turn.

A hitherto unknown group, calling itself the Animal Rights Militia, sent an incendiary package in December to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her official London residence, 10 Downing Street.

The package, which contained a letter from the group, ignited, slightly injuring an official. Four similar packages sent to leading British politicians were defused.

The incident, vigorously condemned by all British campaigners against cruelty to animals, highlights a growing militancy among activists who have decided to replace rhetoric and invective with direct action.

Opponents of blood sports have

noisy condemned members of the royal family, including the young Princess of Wales, wife of the heir to the British throne, for hunting deer and foxes.

In September, animal rights campaigners noisily disrupted the Miss United Kingdom contest to protest against the promotion of furs by the fashion industry.

But some groups favour even more direct action, in their campaigns for legal protection for animals.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association regularly braves the anger of hunt supporters by sprinkling snuff and chemicals to confuse foxhounds and by blowing horns to mislead pink-coated huntsmen.

The Northern Animal Liberation League storms laboratories in large groups and publishes photographs of animal experiments.

Members of a group called the Sea Shepherd paint seal pups to make their pelts worthless to hunters who club them.

The most radical group is the

Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which says it has a moral duty to break the law to rescue animals from suffering.

The ALF was founded in 1976 by a soft-spoken, bespectacled law student, Ronnie Lee, who had spent a year in prison for raids against vivisection laboratories.

In 1977, after the ALF unleashed a wave of attacks on abattoirs, laboratories and a circus, he was caught with 125 rescued white mice, and jailed for a further 12 months.

ALF membership, probably about 1,000, is loosely organised in autonomous cells and is flourishing. "Since the beginning we have probably done about £2 million (\$3.2 million) worth of damage," Mr. Lee told Reuters.

ALF activists, apart from breaking up equipment, have released minks from a fur farm, stolen beagles from a laboratory testing a heart drug and grabbed hens from factory farms. About 150 ALF activists have been arrested and about 10 jailed.

Mr. Lee once told a television reporter that without law reform, misguided animal campaigners might try to kill people carrying out experiments on animals.

Bid to discredit

But he said December's incendiary letters may have been a bid to discredit the campaign. "There are massive commercial vested interests involved on the other side," he added.

Animal rights activists respected all life, including human life, so the letters were unlikely to have been sent by a maverick in the movement, he said.

Mr. Lee said both sides in the controversy over animal rights had resorted to violence or theft of each other's files.

ALF activists daubed paint on the homes and cars of 100 scientists who had worked on some of the 4.3 million mammals used in experiments last year. They sent neighbours leaflets calling the scientist: sadists or murderers.

The Research Defence Union, which defends animal experiments, says some scientists' children were intimidated at school.

Most animal rights groups sympathise with the ALF's motives, but reject its methods.

Instead, they have set up the Animal Protection Alliance, an umbrella political pressure-group against factory farming, laboratory experiments and trading in wildlife.

Richard Course, who represents the league against cruel sports, told Reuters that pressure to improve animal protection laws dating back to 1876 was bearing fruit.

In 1979 the three major British political parties had animal rights in their election manifestos for the first time, he said.

Liberal leader David Steel told supporters after learning that one of the incendiary packages had been addressed to him that he was not surprised that animal welfare had emerged as a cause for radical protest.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan's popularity hits new low

NEW YORK (R) — Only 41 per cent of Americans approve of President Reagan's performance half way through his term of office, according to an opinion poll published in the New York Times Sunday. This figure is considerably lower than the mid-term ratings for Mr. Reagan's four elected predecessors. The poll, taken in early December, showed the president's popularity was at its lowest level since he took office in Jan. 1981. The comparable figures for his predecessors, according to the poll, were: Jimmy Carter, 51 per cent; Richard Nixon, 52 per cent; John Kennedy, 76 per cent; Dwight Eisenhower, 69 per cent.

U.S. Senator raps El Salvador military

SAN SALVADOR (R) — An influential U.S. Senator said here that El Salvador's government had no chance of winning the war against left-wing guerrillas as long as the country's political factions continued their fighting. Christopher Dodd, a member of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, said El Salvador's deep political division had been highlighted once again by the recent mutiny of a northern garrison commander against Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia. He told a press conference at the U.S. embassy here that El Salvador was the scene of two battles — one pitting troops against left-wing guerrillas and the other involving the country's feuding factions.

S. Korean calls Seoul a dictatorship

WASHINGTON (R) — South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jung has described the South Korean government as a dictatorship and criticised the United States for supporting it. Mr. Kim, speaking through an interpreter at a Washington rally, asked his government to spare the lives of Kim Hyun-Jang and Moon Bu-Shik, who have been sentenced to death for setting fire to the American Cultural Centre in Pusan last March. "Saving these two men is more than saving just two human beings. It is saving the conscience of everybody who cherishes the freedom of Korea and the United States," he said.

China attacks Soviet policy in Afghanistan

PEKING (R) — China Sunday launched a fresh attack on Soviet policy in Afghanistan, two days after announcing that Chinese and Soviet officials would meet in Moscow in March for further talks on improving relations. The attack in the official Beijing Review was prompted by a TASS news agency statement on Dec. 31 that the Soviet Union would continue to defend Afghanistan against foreign armed intervention and hopes of a change in attitude were illusory. "The TASS statement undoubtedly disappoints and frustrates those who assumed recently that the Soviet stand on Afghanistan had become a bit more flexible," the Chinese commentator said. The Chinese commentator said the Kremlin "is in fact taking pains to turn that strategic country into a forward base for its southward thrust policy."

Trudeau arrives in Japan for visit

TOKYO (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau arrived here from Manila Sunday for a four-day unofficial visit on the last leg of a 17-day tour of South East Asia and Japan. Mr. Trudeau, who has already visited the five countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the oil-producing Sultanate of Brunei, will be the first Western leader to have talks with Japan's new Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Canadian and Japanese officials here said the two men were expected to discuss the "world economy, East-West relations and other international affairs, including the ASEAN situation." They would also discuss bilateral relations as Japan is Canada's second largest export market after the United States, the officials said. Mr. Nakasone is due to host a dinner for Mr. Trudeau Sunday night.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ AKJ
 ♥ 742
 ♦ AJ1083
 ♣ 64

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ 974 ♠ 8653
 ♥ AQJ108 ♥ 63
 ♦ 65 ♦ Q72
 ♣ 1072 ♣ QJ95

SOUTH
 ♠ Q102
 ♥ K95
 ♦ K94
 ♣ AK83

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
 1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
 Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

"Avoidance" is a highfalutin term for a simple play. All it means is keeping the danger hand off